GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4046
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
CLEANING OF COASLINE
HANNAN MOLLAH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prominent beaches in North Goa coastline were recently blackened;

(b) if so, the names thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to clean the coastline?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a)&(b): During the month of May, 2001, there were incidents of oily sediments, tar balls and other oily substances being washed to the shore along the coastline of Goa starting from the Northern beaches of Arombol, Candolim and Sinquerim to the southern beaches of Varca and Mobor. These oily substances are supposed to originate from oil spills due to tanker washings, accidents and leakages that occur in the Arabian Sea all along the route of oil tankers going to and coming from the Gulf countries. Minor oil spills from fishing boats and other vessels in and around the major port of Mormugao and other smaller ports also contribute to the problem.

(c) The State Government of Goa has, on some occasions, undertaken cleaning of such beaches. It has been reported by the Goa Government that, in course of time, such oily sediments and other oily substances disappear due to biodegradation and evaporation and are also washed back to the sea.